

## MONDAY MORNING

Ms. Frantz stated she had been asked to clarify whether passage of this amendment would mean all five officers would come up for election at the same time. She referred to the portion of Bylaw 208 which is not being replaced, the first part, which calls for the normal term to be four years each. The Executive Minister for Wider Church Ministries and the Associate General Minister are not referenced in this substitute portion because their terms will follow the four year formula so all five officers terms do not expire at the same time and, in fact, this does establish staggered terms.

Mr. Nicholas L. Pence (SOC) moved to close debate.

99-GS-25 VOTED: The Twenty-second General Synod votes to close debate.

The Assistant Moderator called for the vote on the amendment to Bylaw 208.

99-GS-26 VOTED: The Twenty-second General Synod adopts the amendment "The Proposed Addition To Proposed Bylaw Amendment 208" in order to correct the staggered terms formula."

### AMENDMENT TO BYLAW 208

*Delete from paragraphs 208 the entire sentence beginning with "Notwithstanding the foregoing. . ." and substitute in place thereof the following:*

"Notwithstanding the foregoing, in the initial election by the Twenty-second General Synod, in order to achieve staggered terms among the Officers, the terms of the three individuals who are elected at the Twenty-second General Synod to serve as the General Minister and President, Executive Minister of Local Church Ministries, and Executive Minister of Justice and Witness Ministries shall be, and shall be limited, as follows: an initial term of two years, and two additional terms of four years each (if elected) for the General Minister and President; an initial term of two years, and two additional terms of four years each (if elected) for the Executive Minister of Local Church Ministries; and an initial term of six years and one additional term of four years (if elected) for the Executive Minister of Justice and Witness Ministries."

Assistant Moderator Frieberg called on Assistant Moderator Jana Norman-Richardson to moderate the remainder of the plenary.

### 10. RESOLUTION "AFFIRMATION OF PARTNERSHIP WITH THE PROTESTANT CHURCH IN EAST TIMOR"

Assistant Moderator Norman-Richardson called on Ms. Iris M. Branch (CONN) for action on partnership affirmations.

Ms. Branch called the delegates' attention to page 158 in the Program/Worship and Business Book and the Resolution entitled "Affirmation of Partnership with the Protestant Church in East Timor" and moved its adoption.

99-GS-27 VOTED: The Twenty-second General Synod adopts the Resolution "Affirmation of Partnership with the Protestant Church in East Timor."

### AFFIRMATION OF PARTNERSHIP WITH THE PROTESTANT CHURCH IN EAST TIMOR

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ has been in a partnership with the Protestant Church in East Timor (Gereja Kristen di Timor Timur) along with other North American denominations through the Southern Asia Office of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA since 1995;

WHEREAS, Church World Service and Witness of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA, through its colleague agencies in Indonesia, has been serving the people of East Timor for over 25 years;

WHEREAS, the more than 800,000 indigenous people of East Timor have been denied the determination of their own political, cultural and social destiny, first because of the colonial rule of Portugal and currently by the continued illegal military occupation by Indonesia, an occupation condemned by the international community;

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ entered into this partnership with the Protestant Church in East Timor to show its solidarity with the East Timorese people and churches, to assist in the leadership development of the Protestant Church in East Timor and generally to respond, through Church World Service and Witness, to the economic and health needs of the East Timorese;

WHEREAS, through the initiative of the Common Global Ministries Board of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ, a special link has been formed between the Protestant Church in East Timor and the Northwest Region of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ);

WHEREAS, the Southern Asia Office of the United Church of Christ is a participating member and supporter of the East Timor Working Group which

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addresses the issues of self-determination and the welfare of the East Timorese;

WHEREAS, because there is current political ferment in Indonesia and consequent hopes for greater self-determination for the East Timorese people coupled with the uncertainties for the future from potentially destabilizing elements in the East Timorese society into which there has been a significant influx of non-East Timorese; and

WHEREAS, the Protestant Church in East Timor with its over 25,000 members has been facing these social and political challenges and will now be facing them at a new level of intensity and involvement;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-second General Synod of the United Church of Christ affirms with a new sense of responsibility this ecumenical partnership with the Protestant Church in East Timor as an expression of our on-going solidarity and desire for shared life and faith;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-second General Synod give thanks for the faithful witness of a church and its leadership which despite its relatively small size and potential vulnerability has spoken the prophetic word and lived the life of the leaven; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Twenty-second General Synod of the United Church of Christ encourages the appropriate units of the church to continue their advocacy and support of the cause of the East Timorese people and the expressions of solidarity with the Protestant Church in East Timor.

Funding for this action will be made in accordance with the overall mandates of the affected agencies and the funds available.

### 11. RECOGNITION OF PARTNERSHIP WITH EAST TIMOR

Ms. Norman-Richardson called on Rev. Eric Gass, Area Executive for Southern Asia. Mr. Gass reviewed the history leading to the resolution and called on the Assistant Moderator of the Protestant Church in East Timor, Rev. Orlando Marcal. Rev. Marcal brought greetings from East Timor and expressed gratitude for the partnership with the United Church of Christ. Mr. Marcal asked the General Synod to pray for the people of East Timor.

On stage with Rev. Marcal was Rev. David Y. Hirano, Executive Director of the Board for World Ministries, and Rev. Paul H. Sherry. Documents of the Partnership

Agreement were signed, and gifts were exchanged. The delegates responded with a standing ovation.

### 12. RESOLUTION "AFFIRMATION OF PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN UNITED CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF SOUTHERN AFRICA AND UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST"

Ms. Branch referred the delegates to page 157 of the Program/Worship and Business Book and presented the Resolution "Affirmation of Partnership Between United Congregational Church of Southern Africa, and United Church of Christ" and moved its adoption.

Rev. Richard W. Cowles, Jr. (NY) requested that the delegates hear from the person representing the partner church prior to voting.

Ms. Norman-Richardson called on Rev. Daniel Hoffman, Area Executive for Africa to introduce the General Secretary of the United Congregational Church of Southern Africa, Mr. Steve Titus.

Mr. Hoffman explained the history of the involvement of the United Church of Christ with the United Congregational Church of Southern Africa (UCCSA) and introduced Rev. Steve Titus, President of the UCCSA, who spoke to the Synod.

99-GS-28 VOTED: The Twenty-second General Synod adopts the Resolution "Affirmation of Partnership between United Congregation Church of Southern Africa and United Church of Christ."

### AFFIRMATION OF PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN UNITED CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF SOUTHERN AFRICA AND UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

WHEREAS the United Congregational Church of Southern Africa (UCCSA), numbering 235,900 members, carries out ministries of witness and service in Botswana, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe;

WHEREAS, the partnership of the United Church of Christ with the UCCSA has continued uninterrupted since 1833, when the first American Board missionaries were sent to South Africa;

WHEREAS, both the UCCSA and United Church of Christ have worked together diligently to oppose apartheid in South Africa and to establish democracy in South Africa;